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10/019,927	05/01/2002	Masazumi Yamada	MAT-8216US	8653

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EXAMINER

CLEARY, THOMAS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2111

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07/02/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/019,927	Applicant(s) YAMADA ET AL.	
	Examiner THOMAS J. CLEARY	Art Unit 2111	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,7,12-15 and 17-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,8-11 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 April 2009 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1, 3-4, 8-11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "...detecting the input plug or...detecting the source plug". It is unclear as to whether a specific status or configuration of the input or source plug is detected, or whether merely the presence of the input or source plug is detected.

4. Claim 3 recites the limitation "wherein a relationship between the first unit and a second unit is determined one time by the output signal". It is unclear as to how an output signal can determine a relationship, as a signal on its own is merely a pattern of voltages on a conductor and possesses no processing capability necessary for determining a relationship between components. It is unclear if the output signal is used by one of the units for determining the relationship.

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5. Claim 3 recites the limitation "a second unit" in Line 12. It is unclear if this refers to "a second unit" of Line 2, or to a different second unit.

6. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 1, from which Claim 8 depends, recites that the unit or the subunit performs the detection and provides the result, but not that the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit performs the detection and provides the result.

7. Claim 9 recites the limitation "the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 1, from which Claim 9 depends, recites that the unit or the subunit performs the detection and provides the result, but not that the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit performs the detection and provides the result.

8. Dependent claims inherit the indefiniteness of their respective parent claims and are rejected under the same reasoning.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 1-3, 8-9, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA").

11. In reference to Claim 1, AAPA discloses a device control method in a system comprising a) a unit including at least one of an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input signal to the unit from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the unit (See Page 2 Lines 13-17), and b) a subunit included in the unit, the subunit connected to the bus through the unit having at least one of a destination plug connected to the input plug for inputting a destination signal to the subunit from the bus and a source plug connected to the output plug for outputting a source signal to the bus (See Page 2 Lines 18-20), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug or signaling the subunit one time for detecting the source plug; and b) receiving a single

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result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) or the subunit signaled in step a), the result of the detecting identifying either the source plug or input plug as a source of the destination signal (See Page 2 Line 21 – Page 3 Line 4).

12. In reference to Claim 2, AAPA discloses a device control method in a system comprising a unit including an output plug connected to a bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the unit, an input plug connected to the bus for inputting an input signal to the unit from the bus, and a source plug connected to the output plug for outputting a source signal to the bus (See Page 2 Lines 13-20), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug or the source plug as a source of a designated signal; and b) receiving a single result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) (See Page 2 Line 21 – Page 3 Line 4).

13. In reference to Claim 3, AAPA discloses a device control method in a system comprising a) a first unit and a second unit, each of the first and second units having an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input signal to the respective units from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the respective units (See Page 2 Lines 13-17), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling the second unit one time for detecting the output signal outputted from the first unit; and b) the second unit receiving the output signal outputted from the first unit, wherein a relationship between the first unit and a second unit is determined one time by the output signal (See Page 2 Line 21 – Page 3 Line 4).

14. In reference to Claim 8, AAPA discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 1 above. AAPA further discloses the step of: c) determining whether or not a further subunit is present along a path from the output plug or along a path from the source plug as the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit (See Page 3 Lines 5-9).

15. In reference to Claim 9, AAPA discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 1 above. AAPA further discloses the step of: c) determining whether or not the output signal is processed along a path from the output plug or whether or not the source signal processed along a path from the source plug as the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit (See Page 3 Lines 5-9).

16. In reference to Claim 16, AAPA discloses a device control method in a system comprising a) a unit including at least one of an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input source signal to the unit from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for outputting an output source signal to the bus from the unit (See Page 2 Lines 13-17), and b) a subunit having at least a destination plug for inputting the input source signal to the subunit from the input plug and a source plug for supplying the output source signal to the bus from the subunit (See Page 2 Lines 18-20), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling at least one of the output plug of the unit and the

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destination plug of the subunit one time to designate the source plug of the subunit as a source of the output source signal; b) establishing a signal path between the source plug and at least one of the output plug of the unit and the destination plug of the subunit; and c) determining one time from at least one of the unit and the subunit whether or not the input source signal is input to the destination plug of the subunit (See Page 2 Line 21 – Page 3 Line 4).

17. Claims 1-4 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by AV/C Digital Interface Command Specification, Revision 3.0 (“AV/C”).

18. In reference to Claim 1, AV/C discloses a device control method in a system comprising a) a unit including at least one of an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input signal to the unit from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the unit (See Page 37 Section 9.2 Paragraph 2), and b) a subunit included in the unit, the subunit connected to the bus through the unit having at least one of a destination plug connected to the input plug for inputting a destination signal to the subunit from the bus and a source plug connected to the output plug for outputting a source signal to the bus (See Page 37 Section 9.2 Paragraph 1), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug or signaling the subunit one time for detecting the source plug; and b) receiving a single result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) or the subunit signaled in step a), the result of the detecting identifying either the source

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plug or input plug as a source of the destination signal (See Page 39 Paragraph 5 – Page 40 Paragraph 4 and Page 41 Paragraphs 4-6).

19. In reference to Claim 2, AV/C discloses a device control method in a system comprising a unit including an output plug connected to a bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the unit, an input plug connected to the bus for inputting an input signal to the unit from the bus, and a source plug connected to the output plug for outputting a source signal to the bus (See Page 37 Section 9.2 Paragraphs 1-2), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug or the source plug as a source of a designated signal; and b) receiving a single result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) (See Page 39 Paragraph 5 – Page 40 Paragraph 4 and Page 41 Paragraphs 4-6).

20. In reference to Claim 3, AV/C discloses a device control method in a system comprising a) a first unit and a second unit, each of the first and second units having an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input signal to the respective units from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the respective units (See Page 37 Section 9.2 Paragraph 2), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling the second unit one time for detecting the output signal outputted from the first unit; and b) the second unit receiving the output signal outputted from the first unit, wherein a relationship between the first unit and a second

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unit is determined one time by the output signal (See Page 39 Paragraph 5 – Page 40 Paragraph 4 and Page 41 Paragraphs 4-6).

21. In reference to Claim 4, AV/C discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 3 above. AV/C further discloses the steps of: c) recognizing that the first unit is issuing a first signal; d) using a third unit connected to the bus to determine if the second unit is issuing a second signal; and e) processing the first signal by the third unit if it is determined that the second signal is being issued (See Pages 37-42 Sections 9.2-9.3).

22. In reference to Claim 16, AV/C discloses a device control method in a system comprising a) a unit including at least one of an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input source signal to the unit from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for outputting an output source signal to the bus from the unit (See Page 37 Section 9.2 Paragraph 2), and b) a subunit having at least a destination plug for inputting the input source signal to the subunit from the input plug and a source plug for supplying the output source signal to the bus from the subunit (See Page 37 Section 9.2 Paragraph 1), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling at least one of the output plug of the unit and the destination plug of the subunit one time to designate the source plug of the subunit as a source of the output source signal; b) establishing a signal path between the source plug and at least one of the output plug of the unit and the destination plug of the subunit; and c) determining one time from at least one of the unit and the subunit whether or not the input source signal is input to the destination

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plug of the subunit (See Page 39 Paragraph 5 – Page 40 Paragraph 4 and Page 41 Paragraphs 4-6).

23. Claims 1-4, 8-9, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application Publication Number 0 658 010 A1 to Sony Corporation (“Sony-010”).

24. In reference to Claim 1, Sony-010 discloses a device control method in a system comprising a) a unit including at least one of an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input signal to the unit from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the unit (See Column 1 Lines 3-21), and b) a subunit included in the unit, the subunit connected to the bus through the unit having at least one of a destination plug connected to the input plug for inputting a destination signal to the subunit from the bus and a source plug connected to the output plug for outputting a source signal to the bus (See Column 1 Lines 30-39), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug or signaling the subunit one time for detecting the source plug; and b) receiving a single result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) or the subunit signaled in step a), the result of the detecting identifying either the source plug or input plug as a source of the destination signal (See Column 11 Lines 23-31).

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25. In reference to Claim 2, AV/C discloses a device control method in a system comprising a unit including an output plug connected to a bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the unit, an input plug connected to the bus for inputting an input signal to the unit from the bus, and a source plug connected to the output plug for outputting a source signal to the bus (See Column 1 Lines 3-21 and 30-39), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug or the source plug as a source of a designated signal; and b) receiving a single result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) (See Column 11 Lines 23-31).

26. In reference to Claim 3, AV/C discloses a device control method in a system comprising a) a first unit and a second unit, each of the first and second units having an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input signal to the respective units from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for outputting an output signal to the bus from the respective units (See Column 1 Lines 3-21), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling the second unit one time for detecting the output signal outputted from the first unit; and b) the second unit receiving the output signal outputted from the first unit, wherein a relationship between the first unit and a second unit is determined one time by the output signal (See Column 11 Lines 23-31).

27. In reference to Claim 4, AV/C discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 3 above. AV/C further discloses the steps of: c) recognizing that the first unit is issuing a

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first signal; d) using a third unit connected to the bus to determine if the second unit is issuing a second signal; and e) processing the first signal by the third unit if it is determined that the second signal is being issued (See Column 2 Lines 10-51).

28. In reference to Claim 8, Sony-010 discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 1 above. Sony-010 further discloses the step of: c) determining whether or not a further subunit is present along a path from the output plug or along a path from the source plug as the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit (See Column 2 Lines 10-51).

29. In reference to Claim 9, Sony-010 discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 1 above. Sony-010 further discloses the step of: c) determining whether or not a signal is processed along a path from the output g or along a path from the source plug as the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit (See Column 2 Lines 10-51).

30. In reference to Claim 16, Sony-010 discloses a device control method in a system comprising a) a unit including at least one of an input plug connected to a bus for inputting an input source signal to the unit from the bus and an output plug connected to the bus for outputting an output source signal to the bus from the unit (See Column 1 Lines 3-21), and b) a subunit having at least a destination plug for inputting

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the input source signal to the subunit from the input plug and a source plug for supplying the output source signal to the bus from the subunit (See Column 1 Lines 30-39), said method comprising the steps of: a) signaling at least one of the output plug of the unit and the destination plug of the subunit one time to designate the source plug of the subunit as a source of the output source signal; b) establishing a signal path between the source plug and at least one of the output plug of the unit and the destination plug of the subunit; and c) determining one time from at least one of the unit and the subunit whether or not the input source signal is input to the destination plug of the subunit (See Column 11 Lines 23-31).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

31. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

32. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sony-010 as applied to Claim 9 above, and further in view of European Patent Application Publication Number 0 835 029 A1 to Sony Corporation ("Sony-029").

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33. In reference to Claim 10, Sony-010 discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 9 above. Sony-010 does not explicitly disclose the steps of: d) determining whether or not the signal is a multiplexed signal having multiple program contents, and e) determining whether or not 1) there is the output signal along the path from the output plug or the source signal along the path from the source plug and 2) part of the multiplexed signal has been extracted along the path from the output plug or along the path from the source plug as the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit. Sony-029 discloses determining whether or not the signal is a multiplexed signal having multiple program contents, and determining whether or not there is an output signal along a path from an output plug or a source signal along a path from a source plug and whether or not part of the multiplexed signal has been extracted along the path from the output plug or along the path from the source plug (See Column 5 Line 48 – Column 6 Line 46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Sony-010 with the multiplexing of Sony-029, resulting in the invention of Claim 10, in order to allow a plurality of programs to be sent to serial bus on the same channel (See Column 5 Line 57 - Column 6 Line 4 of Sony-029), and thus it is not necessary to perform controls for setting a separate connection when selecting another program (See Column 8 Lines 30-34 of Sony-029).

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34. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sony-010 as applied to Claim 9 above, and further in view of US Patent Number 5,883,621 to Iwamura ("Iwamura").

35. In reference to Claim 11, Sony-010 discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 9 above. Sony-010 further discloses determining whether the output signal or source signal includes video data (See Column 9 Lines 17-27). Sony-010 does not explicitly disclose the steps of: e) determining whether or not data is added to the video data of the output signal along the path from the output plug or added to the video data of the source signal along the path from the source plug to display contents other than the video data of the output signal or source signal as the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit. Iwamura discloses determining whether or not data is added to video data of an output signal along the path from an output plug or added to the video data of a source signal along the path from a source plug to display contents other than the video data of the output signal or source signal (See Column 7 Line 47 - Column 8 Line 10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Sony-010 with the determination of additional data added to video data of Iwamura, resulting in the invention of Claim 11, in order to allow a user to view a connection map or an exact topology map for the digital system, control data transfer by clicking icons or selecting commands from pop-up

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menus, and understand signal flows within the network (See Column 2 Lines 8-20 of Iwamura).

36. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA as applied to Claim 9 above, and further in view of Sony-029.

37. In reference to Claim 10, AAPA discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 9 above. AAPA does not explicitly disclose the steps of: d) determining whether or not the signal is a multiplexed signal having multiple program contents, and e) determining whether or not 1) there is the output signal along the path from the output plug or the source signal along the path from the source plug and 2) part of the multiplexed signal has been extracted along the path from the output plug or along the path from the source plug as the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit. Sony-029 discloses determining whether or not the signal is a multiplexed signal having multiple program contents, and determining whether or not there is an output signal along a path from an output plug or a source signal along a path from a source plug and whether or not part of the multiplexed signal has been extracted along the path from the output plug or along the path from the source plug (See Column 5 Line 48 – Column 6 Line 46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of AAPA with the multiplexing of Sony-029, resulting in the invention of Claim 10, in order to allow a plurality of programs to be sent

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to serial bus on the same channel (See Column 5 Line 57 - Column 6 Line 4 of Sony-029), and thus it is not necessary to perform controls for setting a separate connection when selecting another program (See Column 8 Lines 30-34 of Sony-029).

38. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA as applied to Claim 9 above, and further in view of US Patent Number 5,883,621 to Iwamura ("Iwamura").

39. In reference to Claim 11, AAPA discloses the limitations as applied to Claim 9 above. AAPA further discloses determining whether the output signal or source signal includes video data (See Page 1 Lines 23-26). Sony-010 does not explicitly disclose the steps of: e) determining whether or not data is added to the video data of the output signal along the path from the output plug or added to the video data of the source signal along the path from the source plug to display contents other than the video data of the output signal or source signal as the result of the detection provided by the input plug of the unit or the destination plug of the subunit. Iwamura discloses determining whether or not data is added to video data of an output signal along the path from an output plug or added to the video data of a source signal along the path from a source plug to display contents other than the video data of the output signal or source signal (See Column 7 Line 47 - Column 8 Line 10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of AAPA with the determination of additional

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data added to video data of Iwamura, resulting in the invention of Claim 11, in order to allow a user to view a connection map or an exact topology map for the digital system, control data transfer by clicking icons or selecting commands from pop-up menus, and understand signal flows within the network (See Column 2 Lines 8-20 of Iwamura).

Drawings

40. The drawings were received on 20 April 2009. These drawings are acceptable.

Priority

41. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on applications filed in Japan on 6 July 1999, 6 September 1999, and 19 November 1999. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the Japanese applications as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Listing

42. Claims 23 and 24, which were cancelled in the preliminary amendment filed 1 May 2002, are not present in the claim listing. Applicant is reminded that 37 CFR 1.121 (c) requires that each amendment document that includes a change to an existing claim, cancellation of an existing claim, or addition of a new claim, must include a

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complete listing of all claims ever presented, including the text of all pending and withdrawn claims, in the application.

Response to Arguments

43. Applicant's arguments filed 20 April 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

44. Applicant has argued that neither AAPA, AV/C, nor Sony-010 disclose a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug or signaling the subunit one time for detecting the source plug; and b) receiving a single result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) or the subunit signaled in step a), the result of the detecting identifying either the source plug or input plug as a source of the destination signal, as AAPA, AV/C, and Sony-010 each utilize an IEEE 1394 serial bus and an AV/C Digital Interface Command Set, and thus requires multiple commands to be executed in order to control the IEEE 1394 serial bus using the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set (See Pages 15-16). In response, the Examiner notes that, as indicated in the references and as acknowledged by Applicant, AAPA, AV/C, and Sony-010 each utilize an IEEE 1394 serial bus and an AV/C Digital Interface Command Set. AV/C, which is Revision 3.0 of the AV/C Digital Interface Command Specification, thus discloses features which are inherent in and common to each of the relied upon references. AV/C discloses the use of a single CONNECT status command to detect

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the input plug or the source plug as a signal source (See Page 39 Paragraph 5), and a single result to the CONNECT status command which identifies either the source plug or the input plug as the signal source (See Page 39 Paragraph 6). The claims do not require that the only signal in the system be for detecting the signal source, nor do they preclude other signals related to other functions from being sent. The CONNECT command and the CONNECT status command are separate signals, and neither command requires the other command in order to function.

45. Applicant has indicated that Claims 2, 3, and 16 have similar features to Claim 1 (See Page 17). The Examiner's response is therefore the same as provided above with respect to Claim 1.

46. Applicant has indicated that Claims 4 and 8-11 are dependent claims incorporating all of the features of their parent claims (See Page 17). The Examiner's response is therefore the same as provided for their respective parent claims.

Conclusion

47. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS J. CLEARY whose telephone number is (571)272-3624. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (7-3).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 571-272-3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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